

WASHINGTON, D. C., SUNDAY, JULY 11, 1909.

## HOPE DIAMOND HAS A TRAGIC HISTORY

Public Really Afraid to Obtain Possession of It.

### LEGEND SURROUNDS STONE

Gloomy Traditions Add to Authentication of the Deposed Sultan Abdul Hamid, and His Favorite Was Shot While Wearing It.

Paris, July 10.—It looks as if people were really getting afraid of the famous Blue Hope diamond. On Thursday last it fetched only \$15,000 at auction in Paris, though it changed hands a few years ago for \$28,000. So long ago as 1890 Mr. Hope, the banker, gave \$15,000 for it, and none of these sums represents its true value, which is said to be \$20,000 at least.

There is no doubt a great deal of legend about the story of the diamond, and, strangely enough, it is its recent history that is wrapped in most obscurity. It was certainly in Constantinople for a few years. The story goes that it was in the possession of the deposed Sultan Abdul Hamid, that his favorite was wearing it when she was shot, and that nearly every one connected with it met speedy death or disaster.

All this would only be in keeping with the gloomy traditions that hang about the stone. The list of the authenticated tragedies with which it has been connected is certainly suggestive of evil. It was first heard of as the property of the French traveler and writer, Jean Baptiste Tavernier, who, on his return from a voyage to the East in 1688, sold it to Louis XIV of France. Tavernier was the first known victim of the diamond's evil spell. Reduced to poverty at the age of eighty-one, he set out again for the East to recoup his fortune and died of fever on the journey.

Next the diamond graced the neck of Marie Antoinette at the Tuilleries ball, and sometimes she lent it to her friend, the Princess de Lamballe. Marie Antoinette was beheaded and the Princess de Lamballe was torn to pieces by the Paris mob. Another owner, Louis XVI, was beheaded.

To this extent, the history of the stone is authentic. After the stone left Paris it was divided, and the Hope diamond, as was proved many years later, is the smaller portion of the Tavernier. For forty years after leaving Paris little is known of the gem. It is said that it was given to an Amsterdam diamond cutter to be divided, that his son stole it and, after ruining his father, committed suicide.

Francis Beaulieu is the next recorded owner. He, it is said, was unable to sell it in time to save himself from death by starvation, but died the day after he sold it to a London dealer, named Elison, who in turn sold it to the late Francis Henry Hope, of Deepdene. It then passed into the hands of Lord Francis Hope, whose life, if not a tragedy, was certainly not of the most enviable up to the date of his divorce from May Tolye in 1902.

Sold to Russian Prince. Simon Frankel, of New York, its next purchaser, met with financial difficulties and the diamond was sold to the Russian Prince Kantovskiy, who lent it to a beautiful actress of the Folies Bergeres, in Paris, and shot her dead from a box the first night she wore it. Subsequently, it is said, the diamond passed through the hands of a French broker, who went mad; a Russian prince, who was stabbed by revolutionaries; and a Greek jeweler, who threw himself over a precipice. It then undoubtedly reached Constantinople, and eventually formed part of the Hamid collection, which was sold in Paris last Thursday.

As mentioned above, it is believed to have been in the possession of Abdul Hamid when he was deposed and worn by his favorite, Salma Zubayeva, when she was shot. But that does not complete the story of its bad luck while in possession of Abdul. The man to whom it was entrusted to be polished was hastened and thrown into prison. The keeper of the vault in which it was kept was found strangled, and the English in whose charge it was placed was hanged in the street by the mob.

Such in outline are the history and the legend of the Hope diamond. One may hope that the new possessor is a man of sound nerves.

### BUDGET FIGHT IN COMMONS.

#### British Landed Properties Fear Practical Confiscation of Estates.

London, July 10.—The budget fight is going on merrily. The Radical press makes light of the burdens which the chancellor of the exchequer threatens to impose upon Britain's landed proprietors. How severely the British aristocracy would be hit by the proposed death duties and land value taxation may be seen by a few typical examples.

Lord Clinton has announced that he must sell 6,500 acres in Devonshire to which he succeeded on the death of his uncle, the Hon. Mark Rolle. He intimates that the sale of the property, which includes the family seat of Stevenstone, near Torrington, and for its removal to Cornwall's hosts, is necessitated by the heavy estate and succession duties he has to pay.

Lord Onslow, a great land owner in Surrey, is selling a large part of his holding as a precaution, and has marked out 1,700 acres of his estate in lots, varying from half an acre to 235 acres, to be sold at Tokenhouse Yard, the great London real estate market, in July.

Lord de Ramsey the other day told a public audience that he was killed in an automobile accident that day and his son succeeded to the family properties, he would have to part with at least nine of his finest Lincolnshire farms to meet the death duties leviable under the new budget, and a half year's income, he cannot for the present continue his subscriptions.

### DENIES DIVORCE RUMORS.

#### Princess Engalitcheff.



Wife of the Russian Consul at Chicago, who, before sailing for Europe recently, took occasion to deny reports that she intended to divorce the Russian statesman. The princess was Miss Partridge, of Chicago, before her marriage.

### ANCIENT CASTLE MADE NEW

Duchess of Argyll Impressed with W. W. Astor's Estate.

Never Chateau Dates from Edward III's Reign—Country People Sniff at Yankee Idea.

London, July 10.—The Duchess of Argyll, who has just been the guest of W. W. Astor at Hever Castle, has a highly cultivated taste in architecture and archaeology, and she is said to have urged Mr. Astor to forego the usual entertainments offered to royalty, so that she might spend the greater part of her visit in studying the castle and its surroundings.

Hever Castle dates from Edward III's reign, and was one of the finest existing specimens of the domestic architecture of the fifteenth century until recent changes altered the building somewhat. It was purchased in the time of Henry VI by Geoffrey Boleyn, and has associations with his luckless granddaughter, the fair Anne, whom King Henry courted within its walls. Later in Queen Elizabeth's reign it was the scene of pageants and tournaments.

Like many other famous English houses, it had a long period of decline and decay before Mr. Astor bought it for some \$200,000 and set about an immense and costly work of restoration and rebuilding. Nearly 1,000 workmen were employed in this labor.

The old-fashioned cottages around the castle have been replaced by Tudor structures; a brand-new "ancient" Gothic bridge now spans the little River Eden, the river itself being "improved" by two artificial rocks. Two big lakes have been excavated, the orchard has made way for a deer park, and the house has been transformed with much modern antique carved oak furniture.

The Duchess of Argyll may have wandered about the castle and grounds to her heart's content, but history does not record what her impression was of all those changes. The country people around the castle enjoy the comfort and satisfaction of their new cottages, but they rather sniff at the idea of a Yankee coming over and taking possession of such a place and altering it to suit his fancy at a tremendous cost. English estate owners question the taste which dictated many of the changes.

### KEPT FORTUNE A SECRET.

#### England Surprised at Value of George Meredith's Estate.

London, July 10.—When probate of George Meredith's will was granted people were surprised to find that he had left an estate valued at \$22,359, of which the net personality was sworn at \$22,185. His work had been unrecognized at home for so long that \$20,000 or \$25,000 was the most at which his probable fortune had been estimated.

It must not be thought that the fortune he actually left was the result of his own work. It was due to legacies that fell to him fairly late in life. The biggest was from an uncle to whom Meredith's father was in debt when he died. As soon as he had scraped the money together Meredith sent his uncle a check, which was never presented, and later came the legacy.

The fortunes left by four of Meredith's contemporaries in literature were Algeron Charles Swinburne, \$24,282; Robert Browning, \$18,775; Lord Tennyson, \$25,206; William Morris, \$25,000.

### RUSSIAN'S ODD WAGER.

The Eight Different Methods of Locomotion by Which He Won.

St. Petersburg Correspondence London Evening Standard. A man named Duhoroff has just won a highly original wager at Kief. He had undertaken to appear daily during eight days in the streets employing each time a different mode of locomotion.

He commenced by running down the steps of his dwelling and along the boulevard on his hands. The following day he hopped through the town on one leg. Suits, a skipping rope, roller skates and a bath chair all followed in turn. One day he was conducted through the principal thoroughfares by a small boy who led him on a string.

The finest of his exploits was undoubtedly yesterday's performance when, turning successive somersaults in the air for nearly a mile, he arrived amid enthusiastic cheers at the cafe where his friends were waiting to bestow the prize upon him.

## MILE OF GALLERIES

Mammoth Museum Opens in London with Pageant.

### MEMORIAL TO QUEEN VICTORIA

Descendants of Late Monarch Assist at Ceremonies Incident to Opening of Buildings Which Were Begun Fifty Years Ago—Presents Appearance of Richness and Dignity.

London, July 10.—Another great pageant was provided for London recently when all the members of the royal family in this part of the world attended the opening of the Victoria and Albert Museum. There were present two of Queen Victoria's sons, two of her daughters, five of her grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter. After a graceful speech declaring the museum open, the King walked about the building, and conferred the order of knighthood on Cecil H. Smith, the director.

Just fifty years ago on a site of twelve acres the permanent buildings which were to constitute the Victoria and Albert Museum were begun. They have a frontage of 720 feet in Cromwell road and a frontage of 235 feet in Exhibition road. The frontage is occupied by three stories of side lighted galleries, the fourth floor galleries being top lighted; the remainder of the site is covered with top lighted courts. The total length of the galleries is three-quarters of a mile, and, including the long gallery of two floors that runs down the center of the building, the galleries in the new building are just one mile in length, while the top lighted courts occupy an area of nearly an acre and a half.

### Erected Long Ago.

The picture galleries, the schools of art, the Italian and lord president's courts, the ceramic gallery, and the lecture theater were erected long ago. The science school, the library, the two great architectural courts—one used as a science library and the other as a tapestry court—and all the other rooms are of later origin.

The free use of marble in all the halls and courts gives them an appearance of richness and dignity. The walls of the galleries themselves are for the most part perfectly plain and free from architectural features of any kind. On the other hand, an attempt has been made to avoid finishes of undue length by providing vistas and glimpses through the building and by varying the sizes, proportions, and designs of the various courts and galleries.

The front entrance has a great portal finished with the outline of an imperial crown to mark its character as a great national building, and the scheme of sculptural decoration on the front includes statues of thirty-two British artists and statesmen. The statue of Queen Victoria with her supporters, St. Michael and St. George; the statue of the prince consort, and the figures of Knowledge and Inspiration decorate the entrance.

### BAN ON CHINESE SOCIETIES.

#### Dutch Colonial Authorities Will Deal Severely with Them.

Calcutta, July 10.—The Dutch colonial authorities are going to deal severely with Chinese secret societies. An ordinance comes into force in Java to-morrow which imposes a fine of \$50 or three months' rigorous imprisonment on every Chinaman found in possession of secret society documents or emblems or caught wearing the distinguishing marks of these organizations.

Those who preside over the meetings of such societies, allow meetings to be held in their houses, or fail to inform the authorities of such gatherings incur similar penalties.

### JEW IN BRITISH CABINET.

#### First Time Member of Orthodox Faith Gets Similar Rank.

London, July 10.—The first member of the Jewish community to become a British cabinet minister is the Right Hon. Herbert L. Samuel, who was promoted from under secretary of state for home affairs to the chancellorship of the Duchy of Lancaster on the retirement of the aged Lord Fitzmaurice. The chancellorship carries with it cabinet rank and a salary of \$3,000. Mr. Samuel is the son of a Jewish banker of Liverpool, a constituency now represented by his colleague, Rufus Isaacs, K. C., who is one of the ablest lawyers in England to-day.

Of course, men of Jewish antecedents have been ministers, such as Benjamin Disraeli, afterward Lord Beaconsfield, but they were not members of the Jewish faith. Jews have, however, taken high positions in parliamentary life. The late Lord Pibright, formerly Henry de Worms, was under secretary for the colonies, but was not in the cabinet. The late Sir George Jessel was a law officer of the Crown, and Sir Francis Henry Goldsmid, who was the first Jewish barrister and the first Jewish Queen's counsel, was member of Parliament for twenty-eight years for Reading, Berkshire, a constituency now represented by his colleague, Rufus Isaacs, K. C., who is one of the ablest lawyers in England to-day.

Mr. Bennett proposes to get out statistics proving his case. Meanwhile writers of stories, short or long, are laying odds on Mr. Jesson.

### HOME FOR BACHELOR GIRLS.

#### London Suburb Will Give Women Reasonable Priced Quarters.

London, July 10.—Since the breezy heights of Hampstead have been brought within twenty minutes of Charing Cross by means of a tube, a new suburb has been added to London. A-to-morrow afternoon the Duchess of Argyll opens a block of flats, which has been set apart in the Hampstead Garden suburb for bachelor girls.

It consists of homes for working women of moderate means, artists, journalists, nurses, secretaries, and other professional women. The building forms a quadrangle, standing on two acres of ground. There are forty-nine flats, and all of them are already taken. The only man on the premises will be the porter, who will live in a lodge at the entrance to the court.

No cats or dogs will be allowed, but canaries and parrots are not barred. There is to be no loud playing on pianos or other musical instruments late at night, 10:30 p. m. being the limit suggested. Indiscriminate hammering of nails into the walls will "not be encouraged."

The building has three floors and the flats vary in size, the cheapest, which are let at \$8.50 a month, consisting of a bedroom, sitting-room, bathroom, and scullery. The larger flats, with rents up to \$15.50 a month, have two bedrooms. There is a charge at cost price for firing and electric light, and gas stoves, for heating the bath water, &c., are fitted in each flat. There is a common dining-hall and a common recreation and reading room, and in the quadrangle there will be a lawn with four tennis courts.

### Hollow Log a Fish Trap.

Trenton Correspondence Nashville American. Last week Mr. Castleman of the Sixth district caught from a hollow log in the river near his mill a thirty pound catfish. About a year ago from the same log an eighty pound catfish was trapped and several months later one that weighed thirty pounds was taken.

### LIKE CRAWFORD'S NOVEL.

#### MM. ALMEIDA.



Mr. Alfred de Almeida, who was Helen Louise von Walden Schmeider, and who was married on July 5 to Antonio Figueira D. Almeida, a native of Greece. The wedding recalls one Marion Crawford's story, "The Diva's Ruby," wherein a Greek was an American singer named Almeida. It is said that the Greek is wealthy, although not of high social position.

### EDUCATION IN GERMAN.

#### Berlin Statistics Show Kaiser's Realm Leads All Europe.

Berlin, July 10.—The Berlin press publishes statistics to show that Germany is the best educated nation in Europe. Germany not only leads with the greatest number of school children, 5,500,000, but also spends the largest amount of money for school purposes, \$39,000,000. Her percentage of illiteracy, one-twentieth of 1 per cent, is the lowest in Europe.

More than half the recruits for continental conscript armies can neither read nor write. In Bulgaria the percentage of illiteracy among recruits is 32, in Serbia and Russia, 62; in Portugal and Spain, 70, and in Rumania, 75.

But it is not improbable that German children are paying a heavy price for their proficiency in school work. "The German school child," says a writer recently, "is notoriously overworked. Nervousness among children in Germany is increasingly taking the form of suicide. Pressure of school work and shame over inability to make the expected progress are the most frequent causes."

This growing tendency to nervousness among German children has been recognized, and a number of wealthy men have combined to combat it. They propose to erect a series of great recreation and athletic grounds throughout the country, particularly in the cities.

### DISCUSS PAY OF WRITERS.

#### Englishmen Lay Wager as to Number Who Get \$4,800 a Year.

London, July 10.—An interesting controversy regarding authors' profits is causing mingled amusement and surprise in London. Arnold Bennett, one of the cleverest, and most popular of modern English writers, has stated that there must be nearly 100 novelists who are making \$4,800 a year by fiction, and he undertakes to find forty who are making a still larger income on the lists of the principal fiction publishers alone.

Edgar Jesson, an industrious and accomplished writer of humorous tales, challenges this statement, and says he will give Mr. Bennett \$12 for every novelist in the lists above the number of thirty who is earning over \$4,800 a year. Mr. Jesson does not believe that there are twenty novelists in England to-day who are earning anything like that amount.

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## SOCIETY IN LONDON

Week's List of Hostesses Includes American Names.

### MISS ANNE MORGAN ARRIVES

Mr. Waldorf Astor Keeps Open House at Cliveden—Duchess of Marlborough Entertains at Luncheon. King Will Spend Week-end at Mrs. Harcourt's Villa—The Court Ball.

London, July 10.—The week's list of hostesses includes a large proportion of American names. Dinners, receptions, and concerts were crowded together. Ten dinners were given before Mrs. James Smith's dance.

Ladies Stratford, Iravan, and Granard were among the hostesses. Mr. Waldorf Astor has kept open house at Cliveden since the beginning of the season. This week he gave three large dinners. The Duchess of Marlborough's contribution to the week's gaiety was two luncheons, one for the Countess Zecheni, when the guests included Ladies Granard, Innes Ker, and Craven, and Mesdames John Ward and Frank Mackay, all Americans. Miss Vanward gave a luncheon to thirty guests Wednesday, among them Miss Anne Morgan, who came over from Paris for a short stay in London. Another arrival who is being much feted by Anglo-Americans is Mrs. Henry Carnegie Phipps.

Guests of Ambassador. The French Ambassador gave a dinner to many Americans Friday. All the guests went later to Ambassador Reid's royal dance. Mesdames Waddington, Dominguez, Wade, Chance, and Cornwallis West, and Ladies Cooper and Lister-Kaye were among the guests.

Twelve Americans in a barge decorated with roses and banners represented the American delegation to the Anti-Vivisectionists' procession to-day. Among them were Mesdames Beckwith, of New York, and White, of Philadelphia, and the Misses Baldwin, of Brooklyn.

The news that another court ball will be given for the crown prince and crown princess of Germany, who will arrive at Buckingham Palace shortly, is pleasing to all the smart Americans who receive invitations to these functions.

The King leaves to-day to spend the week-end at the summer residence of the Lewis Harcourt. The guests invited to meet him include Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan, Mrs. Burns, and Lady Granard.

The Eton-Harrow cricket match yesterday and to-day attracted numerous Americans. The Duchess of Marlborough and Mesdames Malvern, Drummond, Drexel, and J. Mackay were present. The costumes were exquisite.

### POLICE METHODS BEMOANED.

#### New York's Third Degree Moves London Newspaper to Sadness.

London, July 10.—The Spectator this week is moved to devote two columns of sad reflections and mild indignation over the third degree administered by the New York police department. It goes into the whole history of torture for the purpose of extracting a confession, beginning with the Romans.

It dilates on the awful cruelties of the dungeons of Nuremberg, and admits with shame that even Englishmen practiced torture upon witches in the fourteenth century. Its chief purpose is to demonstrate the worthlessness of all admissions or statements obtained by such means.

"Torture never did and never can prove anything," says the Spectator. It then goes on to cite a case in this country where a man confessed to a murder of which he was innocent in order to escape the mental agony of the third-degree questioning. He was executed. The man's innocence was established after his death.

Referring to the Sigel murder case, the Spectator says it considerably outruns the vices of reconstructing the crime in France, which is only the newest kind of way of doing the oldest kind of wrong, and hopes this experience will cause every one to see that it is removed many more than three degrees from usefulness and decency.

### FIGHT ON CANCER FRUITLESS.

#### After Seven Years' Research Scientists' Work is Nil.

London, July 10.—The seven years' work of the Imperial cancer research fund was reviewed yesterday at the annual meeting, over which the Prince of Wales presided. This organization may be said to be the head of the world's campaign against the most appalling physical evil with which humanity contends.

So complicated and difficult is the problem that the whole seven years have been devoted to a negative or preliminary effort, chiefly to testing manifold theories and remedies.

Despite the unbroken record of failure, the investigators are pursuing a line of inquiry which leads them to speak hopefully of final success.

### POPE'S CHOIR MASTER.

#### Director of the Sistine Chapel Choir, who is one of the most eminent composers in Italy. Announcement is made that he is coming to this country soon.



### WIDOWED BY ACCIDENT.

#### MRS. ARTHUR G. LANGHAM.



Widow of A. G. Langham, who achieved financial fame last year by gaining control of the Provident Life Assurance Company, New York. Mr. Langham was killed by the premature explosion of a gas stove at the Lonsdale on July 25. Mrs. Langham is now visiting the Baroness von Sternburg, in Europe. Mr. Langham was an uncle to the baroness.

### FRENCH FICTION IMPROVES

#### Reformer Would Purify Literature to Better Nation.

#### Critic Doubts If Latin Countries Will Agree with Teutonic Ideals in Reading Matter.

Paris, July 10.—Those who have followed closely the trend of French fiction have welcomed the improvement in the matter of purity that characterizes the ordinary French novel. Charles Dejob, of the Revue Critique, has lately stated that the fate of a nation depends less on its pedagogical and political doctrines than on its manners. And he goes on to say: "The most certain way of reforming our nation would be to purify its literature. If every one, society people and the working classes, were fed on more healthy reading matter, I am persuaded that universal suffrage would escape many of the criticisms which now it has to undergo."

But even if this were done, it may be doubted whether Latin nations will ever have the same ideas as the Teutonic with regard to the desirable attitude toward sexual matters. Take, for instance, the sort of guide to the heart of woman written by the celebrated Stendhal, or Henri Beyle, now published in the Revue Bleue under the title of "Le Catechisme d'un Romain." In this the future philosopher puts solemnly down the rule of conduct which he thinks will best help him to make conquests among the sex—to affect extreme frankness, to amuse them with pleasant anecdotes, which will lead them to make on themselves flattering reflections.

For the rest audacity is the chief thing he recommends, and he writes that it shows tact to talk and act a great deal. His favorite aphorism is, "There never was an honest woman who was not tired of her business."

The amusing part of the affair is that Beyle was by no means the conqueror he would wish to be taken for, being short, fat, and abrupt in manner, besides being sentimental, melancholy, and excessively shy. But fancy an American or an English boy taking the trouble to put on paper all this stuff!

### WILL TUNNEL MONT BLANC.

#### France Anxious to Have Direct and Quick Route to Italy.

Paris, July 10.—The latest details concerning the project of boring a tunnel through Mont Blanc are embodied in a report prepared by the French ministry of public works. The great tunnel would begin at Chamonix at a height of 3,500 feet above sea level, and would end at Entreves, at a height of 4,300 feet. Its length would be eight miles.

It is not expected that special difficulties will be encountered in the boring, as the Mont Blanc massif is held to consist of hard granite throughout, and unbreakably high temperature and sudden floods by subterranean streams, as in the case of the Simplon tunnel, are not looked for. The construction of a double track electric railway would, it is estimated, take five years and cost \$12,000,000.

Two new connecting lines with existing systems would be needed, one at the French end from St. Gervais to Chamonix and one on the Italian side, from Aosta to Entreves. These would cost \$3,000,000 each. Electric traction would be indispensable here, as the gradients of these connecting links vary from 1 in 50 to 1 in 12½. The entire scheme would thus cost, roughly, \$15,000,000, which should be borne equally by France and Italy.

The Mont Blanc direct route would shorten the Paris-Genoa journey by over thirty miles, but its great political importance would be that it would make the British overland mail to India independent of transit through Germany and Switzerland, as at present, and would be directed by the new Franco-Italian route.

### WOOD MINES OF UPPER TONKIN.

#### From the London Globe.

A curious source of wealth is reported by the French consul at Mongtze, in Upper Tonkin. It lies in wood mines. The wood originally was a pine forest which the earth swallowed in some cataclysm. Some of the trees are a yard in diameter. They lie in a slanting direction and in sandy soils which cover them to a depth of about eight yards. As the top branches are well preserved it is thought the geological convulsion which buried them cannot be of very great antiquity. The wood furnished by these timber mines is imperishable and the Chinese gladly buy it for coffins.

## JUSTIFIES HIS CRIME

Slayer of Sir Curzon Wyllie Defiant in Court.

### MADAR DHINGRA COMMITTED

Indian Student Who Killed English Political Agent and Companion at London Reception Objects to Murder Charge—Wants American Sympathizers to Know His Cause.

London, July 10.—Madar Lal Dhingra, the Indian student who shot and killed Sir Curzon Wyllie on the night of July 1, at the reception at the Imperial Institute, and who also killed Dr. Lalceca in self-defense, was arraigned in the Westminster Police Court to-day.

On entering the courtroom Dhingra assumed the same unconcerned attitude, the same unconsciousness of his crime, that has characterized his conduct since the shooting. When he was asked if he wished to cross-examine one of the witnesses, Dhingra mumbled that he objected to the charge of murder. He said:

"I did what you would expect an Englishman to do. I was perfectly justified in what I did."